useful idiot noun

Save Word

plural **useful idiots**

Definition of *useful idiot*

: a naive or credulous person who can be manipulated or exploited to advance a cause or political agenda

// It is one task of the KGB [in 1982] to apply its skills of secrecy and deception to projecting the Soviet party's influence. This it does through contacts with legal Communist Parties abroad, with groups sympathetic to Soviet goals, with do-gooders of the type that Lenin once described as "*useful idiots*" ... .

— *The Wall Street Journal*